

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08
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R 300640Z NOV 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3087
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, YE
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN YEMEN

BEGIN SUMMARY: DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE WHICH NEW
YARG HOPES WILL RELAUNCH CONFIDENCE AND NORMAL GOVERN-
MENT ACTIVITY STARTED ON NOV 28 WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE.
TENSIONS IN AREA, HOWEVER, WERE REFLECTED IN HARSH
OPENING STATEMENTS BY PDRY AND SOMALI MINISTERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. WITH MOURNING PERIOD FOR SLAIN PRESIDENT HAMDI NOW
AT AN END, ALONG WITH MUSLIM HOLIDAYS, GOVERNMENT
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OF NEW PRESIDENT AHMAD AL-GHASHMI HAS PUT HIGH
HOPES ON SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS NEW
FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR YARG. ARRANGEMENTS WERE
IMPRESSIVE FOR YEMEN. VIRTUALLY ALL ENGLISH
SPEAKING CADRE IN GOVERNMENT PLUS ENTIRE CABINET
HAS BEEN MARSHALLED TO WELCOME AND ESCORT
GUESTS WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM ALL OVER THE

WORLD. MINISTERIAL ATTENDANCE FROM ARAB COUNTRIES AND SUBMINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS FROM OECD NATIONS PLUS LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER GUESTS FROM MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN HEAVILY PUBLICIZED TO BOLSTER CONFIDENCE IN GHASHMI GOVERNMENT.

2. PLAN IS AN IMPRESIVE DOCUMENT WHICH YEMENIS MANAGED TO TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH (ALL SEVEN VOLUMES) ON EVE OF CONFERENCE. IT IS OVERAMBITIONOUS, CALLING FOR AVERAGE 8.2 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH FOR 48 PERCENT OVERALL INCREASES DURING PERIOD OF PLAN. ITS ECONOMETRICS ARE SHAKY, AND ANALYSIS OF MANPOWER RESOURCES IS GLOOMY, BUT PLAN HAS USEFULLY COMPILED LONG LIST OF PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE NEEDED TO CARRY OUT GOALS. DETAIL IS IMPRESSIVE. PLAN CALLS FOR LARGE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND EQUALY LARGE ROLE FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES. SEPTEL WILL SPELL OUT BECKONING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WE SEE FOR U.S. COMPANIES.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN BY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT MUHAMMAD SALIM AL-BASINDWA WAS FOLLOWED BY STRIDENT SPEECH DELIVERED BY PDRY MINISTER OF ECONOMY ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-WALI NASHIR. BASINDWA IS SOUTH YEMENI MODERATE WHO LOST OUT IN REVOLUTION

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IN ADEN. ABD AL-AZIZ IS NORTH YEMENI RADICAL WHO WON OUT IN THAT REVOLUTION. SPEECHES OF THE TWO MEN CONTRADICTED EACH OTHER AT ALL POINTS BUT ABD AL-AZIZ'S HARSH INSISTENCE ON NEED AND INEVITABILITY OF SOCIALIST MODEL OF GOVERNMENT OF ENTIRE YEMEN SEEMED TO BE WARNING OF SOME (SPECIFICALLY ASNAJ) THAT GOVERNMENT IN ADEN HAD SWUNG BACK TO ITS EARLIER VIEW THAT YEMENI UNITY MUST BE ACHIEVED AND ACHIEVED THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY MEANS. ABD AL-AZIZ CALLED FOR INTEGRATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WITH CONCENTRATION ON ROADS AND WADI DEVELOPMENT, JOINT PROJECTS IN HEAVY INDUSTRY, LIKE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, UNIFIED MARKET WHICH WOULD NOT DEPEND ON IMPORTS, CULTURAL IDENTITY BASED ON UNIFIED CURRICULAR CENTERS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE THE "NEW YEMENI MAN" AND UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT PLANS WHICH STRESSED STATE RATHER THAN PRIVATE ACTIVITY.

4. ABD AL-AZIZ REPEATEDLY ATTACKED BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND SUGGESTED NEW IMPERIALISMS IN AREA HAD TO BE OVERTHROWN BY SAME ARMED STRUGGLE.

5. PDRY MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS SUCCEEDED BY SPEECH BY SPECIAL ADVISOR TO SOMALI PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING MOHAMMAD YUSEF WARI WHO LED OFF WITH RINGING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEECH ATTACKING "SOVIET IMPERIALISM IN LOWER END OF RED SEA" AND PLEDGING SOMALI PEOPLE WOULD STAND BY YEMENIS IN OPPOSING SOVIET AIMS IN THIS AREA. WARI HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT ECONOMICS.

6. CONFERENCE DISCUSSION PROCEEDED WITH REMARKABLY FRANK DISCUSSION OF YEMENI DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING. ALL DELEGATES, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZED EXTRAORDINARY YEMENI ACHIEVEMENT AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION IN LAST FIVE YEARS AND SAID AMBITIOUS GOALS OF PLAN

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MIIGHT BE ACHIEVED IF MOMENTUM AND STABILITY OF LAST THREE YEARS COULD BE MAINTAINED.

COMMENT: BELIEVE CONFERENCE--WHICH PLANNED BEFORE DEATH OF HAMI--IS USEFUL FOR BOTH YAR AND FRIENDS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY HERE, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER IT WILL SERVE POLITICAL PURPOSES WHICH INTENDED. IT MORE LIKELY TO PAPER OVER INTERNAL DIFFERENCES TEMPORARILY. DEVELOPMENT, MOREOVER, CANNOT ISOLATE YAR FROM POLITICAL STORMS WHICH BEGINNING BLOW HARDER IN LOWER RED SEA.

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